

**From:** [Vice Provost for Research](#)  
**To:** [Cheryl L. Greengrove](#)  
**Subject:** Update on the Federal Research Funding Landscape  
**Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 5:56:21 PM

[View the web version of this message](#)

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

## Update on the Federal Research Funding Landscape

Research colleagues,

UW leadership is aware of the 2/26 [Executive Order](#) on implementing the DOGE cost efficiency initiative. The EO directs federal agencies to review grants and contracts for termination based on waste, fraud and abuse, and prioritizes review of awards to universities. As said in previous communications, we continue to closely track new and ongoing federal developments that impact research, as well as [legal challenges](#). UW leaders are meeting multiple times weekly to understand the potential impacts and strategically plan steps in response. There will be periodic updates and further communications when there are concrete actions to be taken. In the meantime, you can refer to the regularly updated Office of Research [Guidance on Federal Administration Research Policy](#). In addition, the Provost's Office provides a more general [Federal Policy Updates](#) page.

Consistent with news reports of potential sweeping changes, the Office of Research is seeing many federal orders for awards to be terminated, paused or changed in scope. Colleagues on all of our campuses, and at all colleges and universities across the country, are affected. In general, we need to abide by these orders at this time, because the existing restraining orders do not apply. **If you receive a stop work order or change of scope, you must act on it.** If you receive a change request, see our guidance on handling at the [Guidance on Federal Administration Research Policy](#) page. We are also seeing delays in issuance of non-competing renewals and new awards. Because of the growing uncertainty, we are pausing approval of advanced spending budgets for new federal awards. In general, **we strongly encourage PIs to minimize advance spending, with a reminder that unrecoverable costs are borne by the PI/department.** It is simply not possible for departments or the university to cover the costs currently funded by federal awards. Further, the state of Washington is facing significant budget shortfalls and is instructing agencies, including the UW, to model budget cuts and other expense saving actions; we cannot count on the state of Washington to backstop federal funding.

With the likelihood of more award terminations, I encourage PIs to strengthen connections

with others in your research community. There may be researchers with extra financial capacity who can help with supporting staff when awards are unexpectedly terminated. In addition, we are working toward strategies to preserve the breadth of high impact research at UW, particularly through shared infrastructure, to the greatest extent possible.

I wish I could provide better news. More information will be provided as we learn more.

Mari Ostendorf  
Vice Provost for Research

[OFFICE OF RESEARCH](#)

[CONTACT US](#) | [PRIVACY](#) | [TERMS](#)

© 2025 Office of Research  
Gerberding Hall G80  
Box 351202  
Seattle, WA 98195

You're receiving this required notice because you are a Principal Investigator or other researcher at the University of Washington.

This email was sent to [cgreen@uw.edu](mailto:cgreen@uw.edu)